

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled by this reply. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,419,159 ("Odinak"). Claim 1 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 3. Support for this limitation may be found, for example, in Figures 5, 6, 7, and the corresponding text in the specification, for example pages 8 and 9. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, recites an interface circuit that includes a switch, a capacitor, and the pulse generator. The limitations of the additional components (*i.e.*, the switch, capacitor, and pulse generator) have been added to define the constructional features of the interface circuit. The invention, as recited in amended claim 1, relates to a portable object that includes a microcontroller capable of carrying out data processing.

The microcontroller includes an interface circuit through which the part of the microcontroller that carries out data processing receives a supply voltage. Further, the present invention relates to the confidentiality of sensitive information (*i.e.*, the data processing) so that it is not revealed to a measurement device. Moreover, it is the combination of the switch, capacitor, and pulse generator that allows the confidentiality of this sensitive information.

Odinak, in contrast to the present invention, fails to disclose or suggest the invention as recited in independent claim 1. Specifically, Odinak discloses an IC card comprising a power analysis protection device that is provided with a power analysis circuitry. Odinak does not show or suggest an interface circuit that includes a switch, capacitor, and a pulse generator in combination. Therefore, it is clear that the IC card disclosed in Odinak differs from the interface circuit of the present invention.

In view of the above, Odinak fails to show or suggest each and every element of amended independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Odinak. Additionally, claim 7 has been amended in this reply to include similar patentable limitations as amended independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 7 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Odinak in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,264,108 ("Baentsch"). Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled by this reply, and the limitations of these claims have been incorporated into independent

claim 1. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Odinak fails to teach or suggest the invention recited in independent claim 1. Further, Baentsch does not teach or suggest what Odinak lacks.

Specifically, Baentsch teaches an IC card comprising a shield under the form of a membrane configuration for detecting an intrusion. Additionally, Baentsch teaches a protection unit for controlling the erasure of sensitive information in case of intrusion. Further, the operating power of the IC card disclosed in Baentsch is supplied by an outside source of energy (col. 2 ll. 6-16). Therefore, it is necessary for the protection unit of Baentsch to include a power interrupt circuitry for maintaining power in the unit when no external power is supplied (col. 2 ll. 41-44). Without the power interrupt circuitry, the control of erasure of sensitive information would not be possible when there is no source of external power. In this case, Baentsch uses a capacitor with the interrupt circuitry to maintain power during the time period of the erasing process.

Therefore, in contrast to the present invention, the capacitor disclosed in Baentsch is used for maintaining power during an erasing process period, whereas the capacitor disclosed in the present invention is used in conjunction with an interface circuit, which aims at modulating the electrical couple between a contact stud and a microcontroller carrying out data processing. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Odinak with Baentsch because the capacitor of Baentsch is used for powering reasons and not for modulation.

In view of the above, Odinak and Baentsch, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended

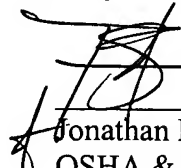
independent claim 1. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09669.019001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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